ZERO

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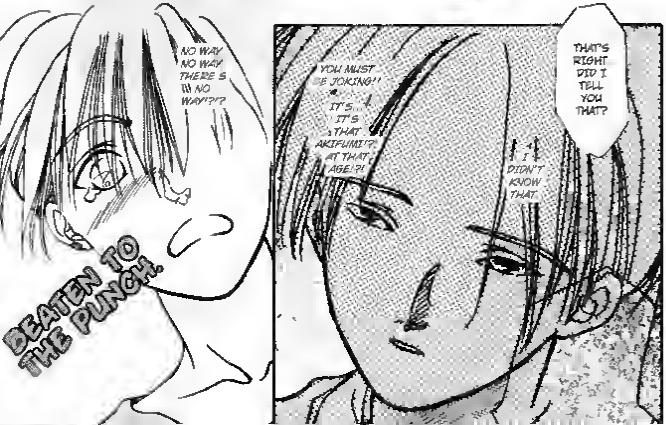
I'M GOING TO GERMANY
HUH?
(I UNDERSTAND EVEN LESS WHAT'S INSIDE OF THIS.)
APPARENTLY HE BETRAYED MY GRANDFATHER THE OLD GIT SAID THAT THE CHIP WAS STOLEN
IS YOUR MUM GERMAN?
THEY SAID IT'S UNDERGROUND SO THERE'S SURE TO BE A VENTILATION SHAFT AT LEAST
"AKIFUMI BATEN" IS MY OLD MAN
NO WAY LISTEN AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION, AKIFUMI WAS AT THE SAME PLACE AS TOMOYA
MY BACK HURTS


BEATEN TO THE PUNCH.
NO WAY NO WAY THERE IS !!! NO WAY!?!?
YOU MUST BE JOKING!! IT'S... IT'S THAT AKIFUMI!?! AT THAT AGE!?!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
THAT'S RIGHT DID I TELL YOU THAT?

OH!
BUT, IN THAT ERA, THERE WASN'T REALLY MUCH OF THAT TYPE OF THING.
BESIDES, FOR THAT SORT OF THING, AKIFUMI SEEMED LIKE THE TYPE TO HAVE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR MARRIAGE.
IS THAT SO STRANGE? MY DAD AT EIGHTEEN?
SURPRISE
DOES THE "Y" STAND FOR YOUR GERMAN NAME? WHAT IS IT?
HEY!
?
FRANCOISE!?
QUIET IT DOWN A LITTLE! WE'LL BE FOUND!
BWA HAH HAH HAH
BWA HAH HAH HAH
BWA HAH HAH HAH

LET'S GO FURTHER BACK
THEY'RE COMING
IS ANYONE THERE?
WHO'S THERE!?
16
!?
!?
SURE IS DARK.
NO ENTRY
"NO ENTRY"
LOOKS LIKE THIS AREA'S BEEN ABANDONED
THAT'S CONVENIENT

CREEE
WHOA!
LET'S MOVE!
UAAA

AHH!
LILILIGH.
THIS IS TERRIBLE. NAAAAASTY! WHAT ARE THEY DOING PICKLING PEOPLE IN FORMALDEHYDE*?
LOOK AT THIS
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES
THEY'RE ALL HERMAPHRODITES
WHAT?!

THEY'RE DISGUSTING
LET'S GO
YOU'RE RIGHT.
EVEN THE KIDS.
YEAH. THEY'RE NOT VERY PLEASANT, ARE THEY?

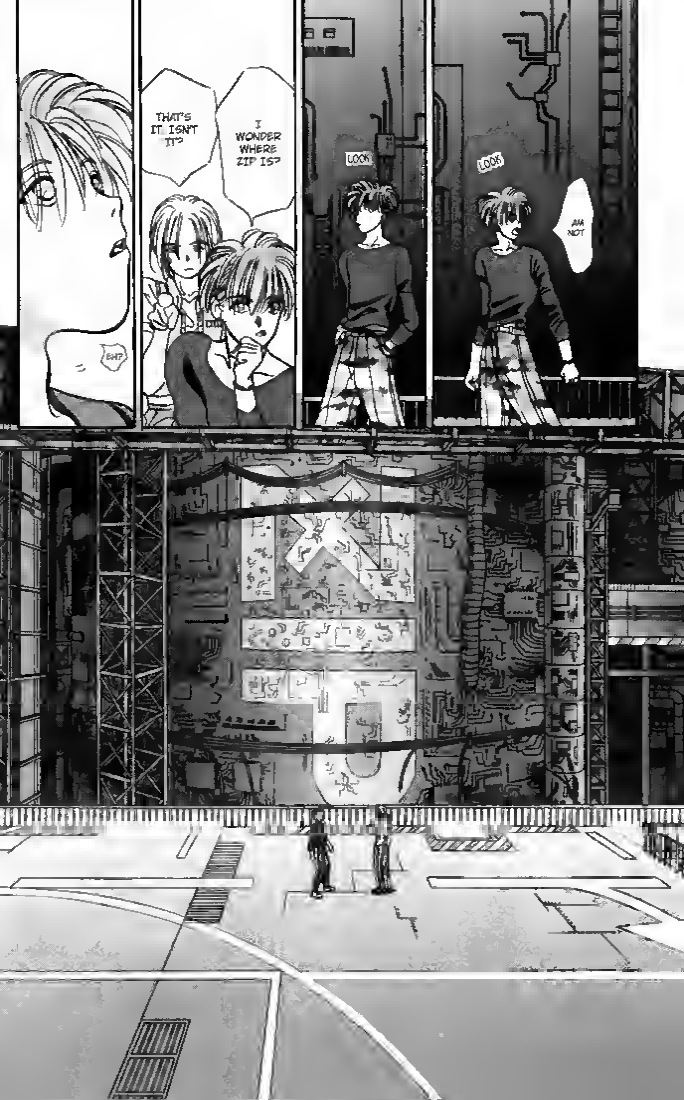
ARE HERMAPHRODITES...
DISGUSTING?
HUH? NAH. NOW HAVING THE NERVE TO PICKLE HUMANS IN FORMALDEHYDE...
BUT WHY ASK? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THEY'RE DISGUSTING, RIGHT?

WHAAAAAAT?
BUT ?
BUT ??
BUT ???
YOU AND ME WERE THE SAME AGE, RIGHT?
SHOCK
I DON'T REALLY LOOK THERE
YIKES!
YOU'VE BATHED WITH ME LOTS OF TIMES, HAVEN'T YOU!?
SHOW ME!
WE'RE THE SAME WE'RE THE SAME WE'RE THE SAME!! I WAS IN THE DESERT UNTIL I WAS FIVE!
SO THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T LIKE GETTING UNDRESSED!
THUD THUD THUD
I'M MALE NOW!!
KICK
GIRL
HATE
IF IT'S DISGUSTING, SAY IT'S DISGUSTING!
I WAS A NEUTER TOO, YOU KNOW!!
I DON'T KNOW THAT DO I? YOU MIGHT BECOME FEMALE AFTER ALL THIS
ARE YOU REALLY MALE?
I WON'T BECOME FEMALE, I TELL YOU!! I'VE BECOME A GUY!

STAY AS YOU ARE FOREVER AND...
DON'T BETRAY ME...
BEAUTIFUL JULIA.
PROBABLY KNEW ABOUT THAT COLLECTION AND COULDN'T PUT YOU INTO ZOO UNTIL YOU WERE FIVE I SUPPOSE
INCONSIDERATE
SMACK
SMACK
HOW MANY TIMES?
YOU SHOVED IT TO FAST
IT WAS ENOUGH THAT SHE HAD A PASS-KEY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HOW"?
WELL HOW WAS IT WITH KAIE?
DIFFERENTIATION HAPPENS NATURALLY. DOESN'T IT? IT'S JUST THAT YOUR GENDER IS DECIDED AFTER YOU'RE BORN, RIGHT?
I WAS TRAPPED AND FOOLED INTO IT. BESIDES
ONCE
LIKE YOU SAID?
THE PASS-KEY WAS MADE FOR THE ZERO...
LIKE I SAID?
AND...
IT'S NOTHING TO BE CONCERNED WITH
YOU KNOW YOUR DAD
PLUS UNDIFFERENTIATED HERMAPHROS ARE BEAUTIFUL

WHEN DOING ZERO KAIE WAS A MAN, RIGHT? IF THAT'S SO THEN THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT YOU AREN'T TOMOYA BUT RIKAKO, ISN'T THERE?
HEY THAT'S RIGHT?
WHU-?
DIE.
YOU DIRTY OLD MAN
BE MY DOLL
GENERAL THERE'S A PHONE CALL
STOP

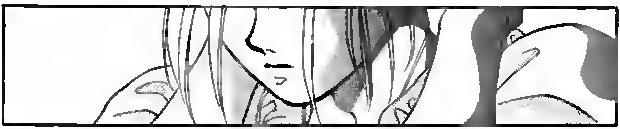
THE RECENT SIGNAL INTERFERENCE SURE IS AWFUL I CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE BECAUSE OF ZIP BEING CUT OFF
SHUDDER
I WONDER WHAT THAT "RESZERO" BEING DISPLAYED AN INSTANT BEFORE THE AUTOMATIC CONTROL CUT IN BECAUSE OF THE SIGNAL INTEREFERENCE WAS ALL ABOUT?
AND WE, NOT KNOWING WHY IT APPEARED CAN'T INFORM ANYONE FROM THE TOP.
AH WELL DOWNSTAIRS IS STILL UNTOUCHED, SO THEY'RE NOT MAKING US RUSH EITHER, ARE THEY?
IT'S TAKEN FIFTEEN YEARS UP 'TIL NOW IT'LL TAKE IT'S OWN TIME
THERE'S A RUCKUS JUST NOW BECAUSE OF THE ZERO, SO THE ARRIVAL OF THE LSI IS LATE TOO I COULDN'T CARE LESS
ZIP IS OUT OF SORTS EH?
SURE IS IF YOU WERE A WOMAN. YOU'D BE WORN OUT FROM BEARING ALL THOSE CHILDREN, TOO
HEY! WHY DON'T YOU CUT IT OUT?
OWCH
SO EVIDENTLY ZIP IS IN THIS AREA, HUNH?
I'M TOMOYA!
YOU'RE SHAKING

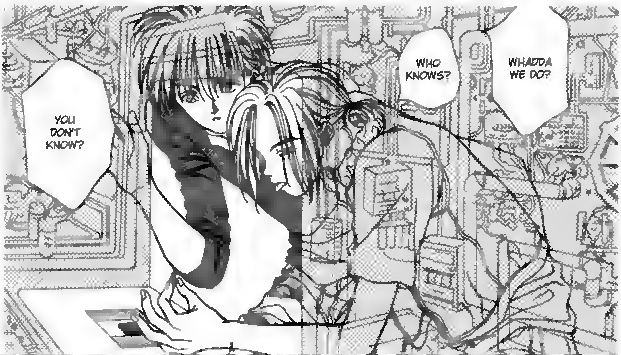

EH?
THAT'S IT. ISN'T IT?
I WONDER WHERE ZIP IS?
LOOK
LOOK
AH NO!

WOOOOOOO!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE INSIDE OF THIS HAS BEEN PACKED WITH THOSE TINY LSLS?
THEY'RE STILL DRIVING US LIKE HORSES
THAT'S WHAT THEY IS
DESPITE THE FACT THAT ZIP ALSO MEANS ZIP, IT LOOKS BLUE DOESN'T IT?
I WONDER IF THE MAGNETIC STORMS ARE GETTING TO IT?
WHERE THE HELL TO WE PUT THE CHIP?
NO MATTER WHERE I LOOK THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN THIS LADDER!
WHY IS IT THIS SHABBY?
LOOKS LIKE IT HASN'T BEEN USED IN A LONG TIME

THE UNTOUCHED DOWNSTAIRS THAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT A WHILE AGO?
BUMP
HEY!
DON'T SUDDENLY STOP!
LOOK...

OVER THERE?
YEAH PROBABLY




YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHO KNOWS?
WHADDA WE DO?

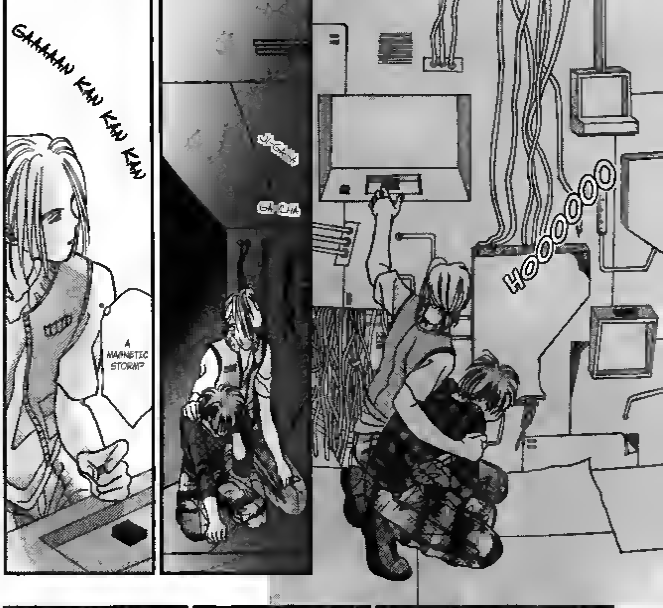
DI-CHIK
OOPS!
NOTHING'S HAPPENING THOUGH
IT REALLY FITS!
IT FITS.
HAHA, IT FITS PERFECTLY
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
BUUN
AAAA

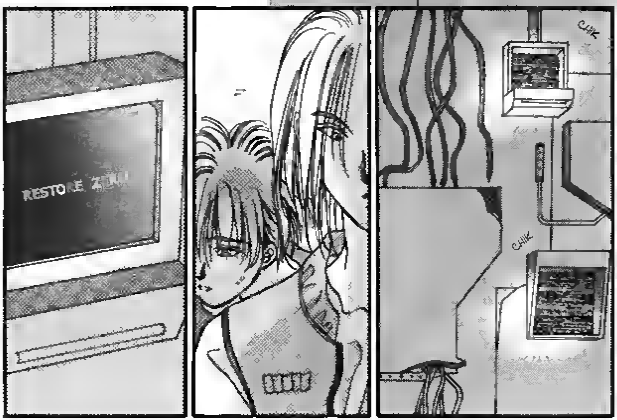
KIIIIIIII
THE CRYSTAL'S RESONATING!
AH..
AAARGH!
BAM
AAA
AAAA
AAAAA

I WANT TO MEET YOU.
KIII

PLEASE!
I WANT TO SEE YOU.
COME HERE!
I WANT TO SEE YOU!!
BA-THUMP
IT HURTS!
BA-THUMP
IT HURTS!!
KIII

GEO!!
WHAM
WHAM
BUAAAAAAAN
WHAT'S GOING ON?
COLONEL! ZIP IS RUNNING!
YOU MUST BE JOKING! WHO ?
I WANT TO SEE YOU.


GAAAAAN KAN KAN KAN
A MAGNETIC STORM?
JUGAA
GAUGA
HOOOOOO


RESTORE
CLINK
CLINK

THIS ISN'T ABOUT ZERO THE DRUG
YOU ALRIGHT? THAT WAS TERRIBLE
IS ANYBODY ELSE ATTUNED TO THE CRYSTAL'S WAVELENGTH?
YOU DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING?
BUT I'VE HAD THIS FEELING SOMEWHERE
NOT REALLY IF IT'S NOT THE DRUG, MAYBE IT'S THE ZERO ERA?
SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS ABOUT BOTH THE CRYSTAL CHIP AND ABOUT ZIP
IS CALCULATING THE MAGNETIC STORMS IN THIS REGION AND INTERFERING WITH THE US MILITARY ORGANISATION
THERE WERE PEOPLE BEFORE US WHO REALISED THAT THIS WORLD IS SUSPICIOUS
HE TINKERED WITH THE LSI AND MADE THIS DISPLAY SCREEN SO.
PERHAPS HE'S ON THE SAME FLOOR?
GOT A LOT OF GUTS TO DO IT WITHOUT BEING NOTICED OR ANYTHING
ZOO HAS GOT A LOT OF WORK IN TOO SO MAYBE THE CHECKS HAVE BECOME EASIER.
THIS FAR, WHEN A FAKE WAS PUT IN IT'S BEEN DECONSTRUCTED AND REDONE FROM STEP ONE
OR SOMETHING
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T WE GIVE THEM A LITTLE HELP AND MAKE IT SO THAT IT'S EASY TO DE CONSTRUCT?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
HEY NOW

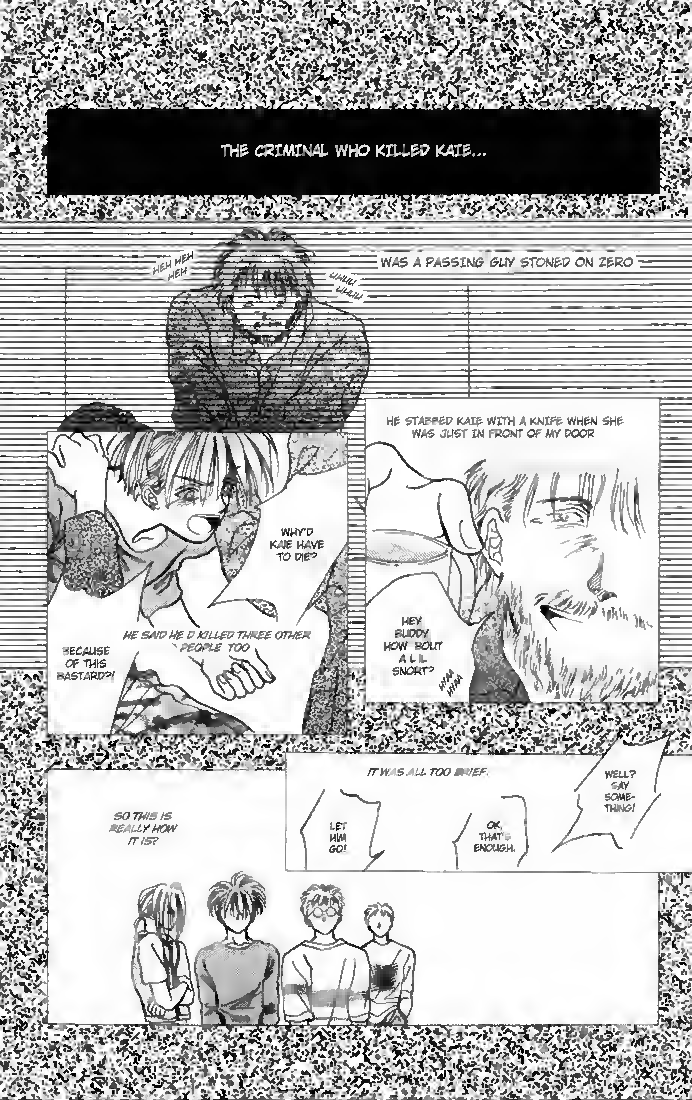
WE'D BETTER PUT THIS GUY TO SLEEP
IF WE DON'T YOU'LL GET ANOTHER HEADACHE LIKE A WHILE AGO
LIKE I'LL GET AWAY WITH JUST A HEADACHE?
LOOK! LOOK!
THE JAPANESE PEOPLE IN ZOO ARE VIOLENTLY BEING BRAINWASHED
SO, WE'LL BLOW IT UP!
WITH? WEREN'T THEY HEAVY?
OPTIONAL
BOMBS OF ALL SORTS
WAA HA HA HA
THEY WERE HEAVY
MEDI-CINE
GET ME SOME MEDI-CINE.
MY HEAD
HURTS
YOUR POWER IS TOO STRONG PERHAPS?
LET'S STRENGTHEN THE DOSAGE A LITTLE

WAM
UNGH
UNGH
WHAT'S
DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME?
IF YOU WANT TO KILL DON'T BE AWARE OF THE INTENTION
ACT WITHOUT THINKING!
I'LL TELL YOU SOME-THING MORE
HAPPEN N.O. NOW?
EVEN THOUGH I LIKED YOU
EVEN THOUGH I LONGED FOR YOU

THE PERFECT WAY OF KILLING PEOPLE.
THE CRIMINAL WHO KILLED KATE WAS CAUGHT!?
TODAY OF ALL DAYS WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE?
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU, GEO.
IF WE DON'T HURRY UP HE'LL BE RUSHED AWAY WITHOUT EVEN BEING ABLE TO COMPLAIN
HURRY, BATSU!
HEY AGI WE GOT UP TO A LITTLE MISCHIEF AND ARE RUNNING LATE
WE'RE FINE WE'RE FINE I'M WITH BATSU RIGHT NOW
WHAT?
IT'S NOT HURTS.

BATSU

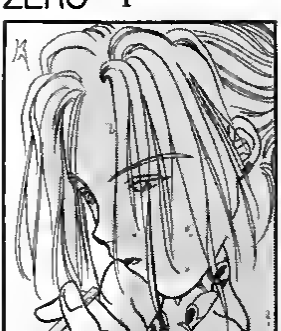
GEO!!
WHAT THE ..? GEO!?
GWOO
HUNH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU'RE FREAKIN' OUT 'CAUSE OF ZIP
I'M GONNA KICK YOU!
PAUL
HE'S GONNA KICK ME
A VOICE
JUST NOW
LIKE


THE CRIMINAL WHO KILLED KAIE...
WAS A PASSING GUY STONED ON ZERO
HEH HEH HEH
HAHA! HAHA!
WHY'D KAIE HAVE TO DIE?
HE SAID HE'D KILLED THREE OTHER PEOPLE TOO
BECAUSE OF THIS BASTARD?!
HE STABBED KAIE WITH A KNIFE WHEN SHE WAS JUST IN FRONT OF MY DOOR
HEY BUDDY HOW 'BOUT A L L SNORT?
HAW HAW!
IT WAS ALL TOO BRIEF.
LET HIM GO!
OK. THAT'S ENOUGH.
WELL? SAY SOMETHING!
SO THIS IS REALLY HOW IT IS?

WELL IT'S ALMOST TIME, EH?
YEAH I GUESS IT IS
WELL, IT'S THE PART WHERE THE PEOPLE DOWNSTAIRS AREN'T SO THERE PROBABLY WON'T BE ANY PHYSICAL INJURIES
BUT THE POWER SUPPLY'S BEEN CUT-OFF SO FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIP, IT'S A SENSITIVE SPOT, ISN'T IT?
SMILE
DOSH
SH-TONK
AT THE MOST, IT'LL JUST SLOW DOWN THE COMPLETION OF ZIP A LITTLE
BUT AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE CHIP HERE, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT
THIS'LL TRASH THAT OLD GEEZER'S COLLECTION, TOO

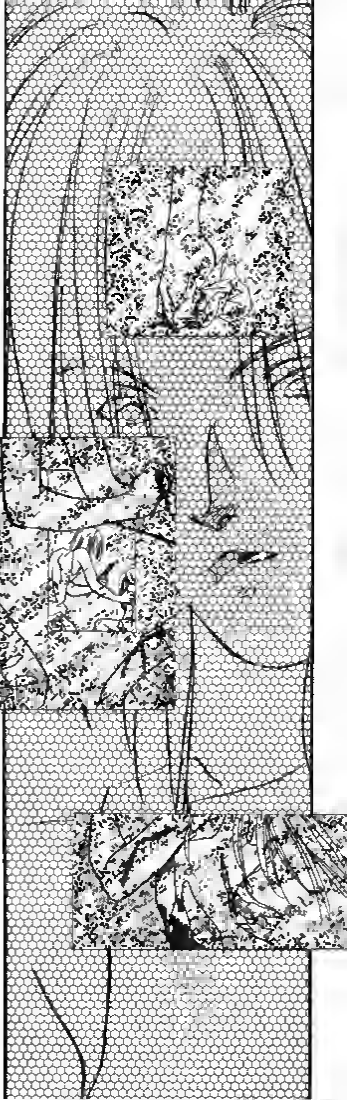
HOLD THIS FOR ME OKAY?
"YOU BELONG TO ME."
"EVEN IF YOU ESCAPE, IT'S USELESS. EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE CHIP, I'LL CATCH YOU."
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT A BASTARD!!
OUR ENEMIES ARE SEARCHING FOR IT
AGU! ZATTO!
AHH, THERE THEY ARE! FINALLY FOUND THEM.
WELL WELL
DON'T WORRY! I'M SURE YOU'LL BE RESCUED SOON!

I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?
WHO KNOWS?
IS THIS BY ANY CHANCE THE LITTLE GIFT OF MISCHIEF?
BY THE WAY...
WHACK!
YOU SURE DID IT IN STYLE, DIDN'T YOU!!
YOU BLEW IT RIGHT?
HUH?
I DON'T THINK SO BUT
WELL ANYWAY, IT'S A FINE START WAY TO BE♡
THEREFORE LET'S FIRE UP A SMOKE!
AH, DON'T BE GETTIN' TAN YANK!
CLANK!
I GOT 'EM FROM THE SAME YANK AS BEFORE.
THEY'RE SPECIAL! ♡
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT TO THE POINT THAT I DON'T CARE BUT
HMM, IT'S MILD
HUH? SOMETHING IN THIS?
HAUH? SWEET

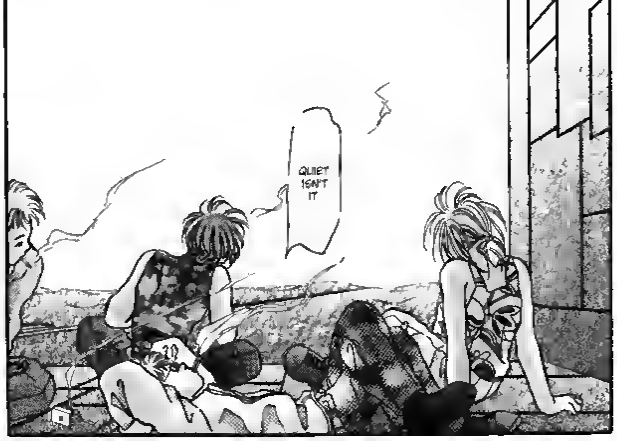


IF YOU FEEL SICK, YOU BETTER STOP

YOU SAID THAT YOU'RE NOT GOOD WITH DRUGS, RIGHT? TAKE IT EASY!
WHA— OH, YEAH



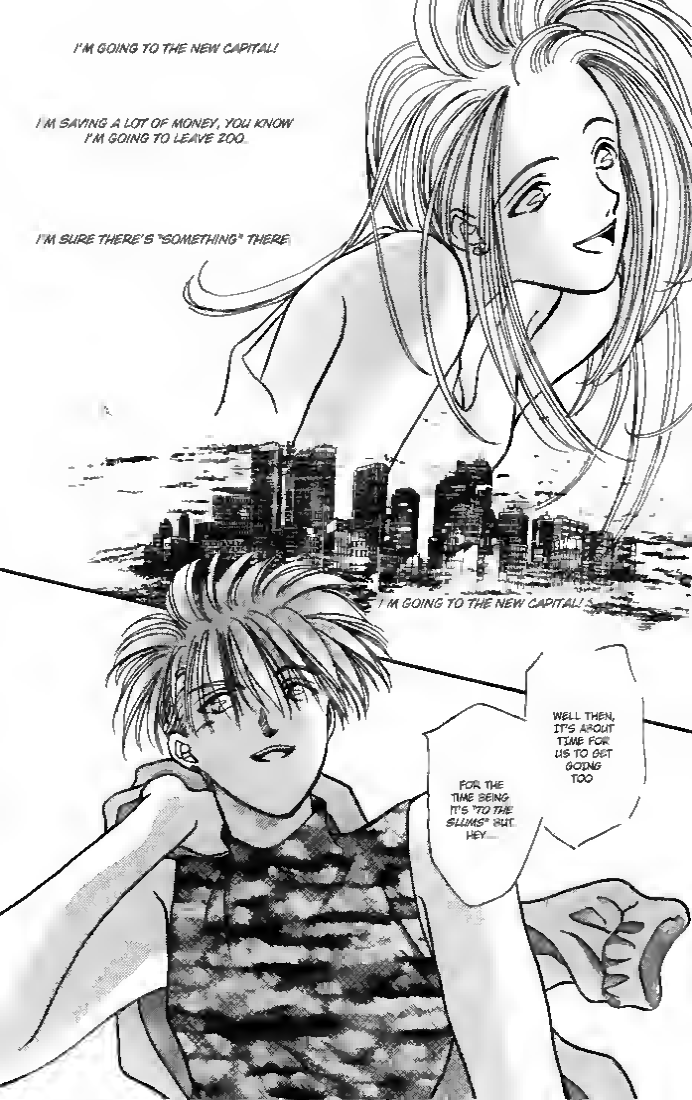
I REALLY LOVED KAIE BECAUSE SHE WAS A GREAT PERSON AND AS A FRIEND SHE WAS THE BEST
THERE'S BEEN TOO MANY THINGS GOING ON UP 'TIL NOW SO I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT HER PROPERLY
THIS IS THE LAST GUM THAT I GAVE HER.
I ALWAYS LOVED YOU...
I'M SORRY


QUIET ISN'T IT

YOU KNOW KAIE

NEW TOKYO, OF COURSE
IT'S THE LINEAR! I WONDER WHERE IT'S GOING
YOSHI
YOSHI

GEO?
IS THAT GUM?


I'M GOING TO THE NEW CAPITAL!
I'M SAVING A LOT OF MONEY, YOU KNOW
I'M GOING TO LEAVE ZOO.
I'M SURE THERE'S "SOMETHING" THERE.
I'M GOING TO THE NEW CAPITAL!
WELL THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO GET GOING TOO
FOR THE TIME BEING IT'S "TO THE SLUMS" BUT, HEY....

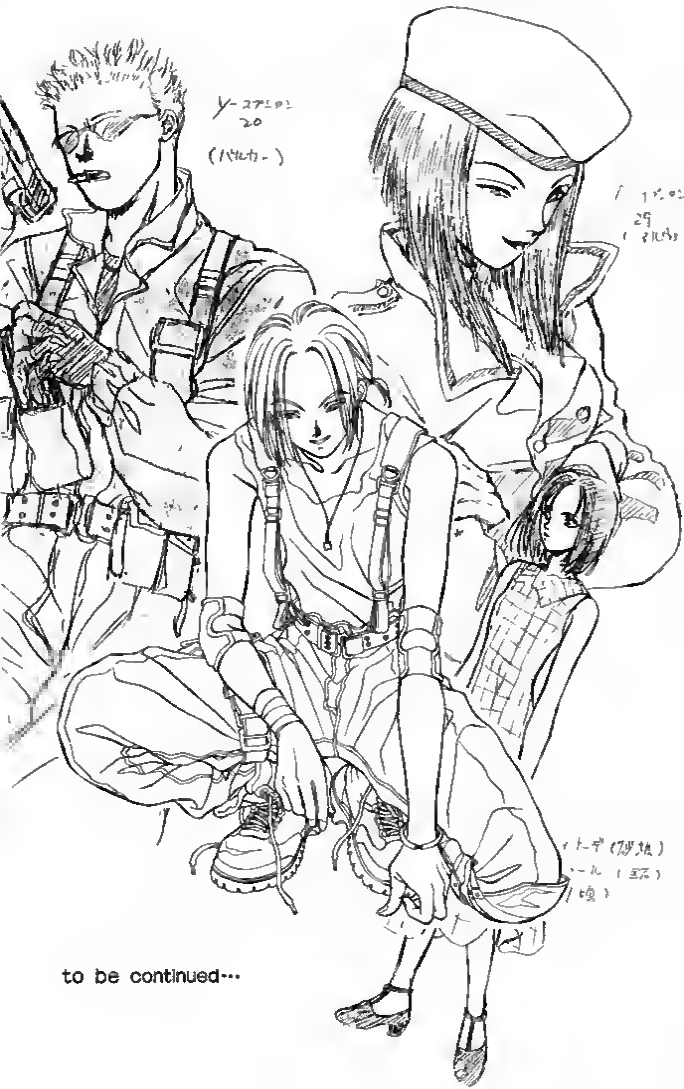
CARRYING AGI'S TOOLS
REALLY SUCKS!
DID YOU BRING THE BAGS?
HUH? THIS IS FATHER'S TOOL KIT!
THE MOMENT I THOUGHT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDSHIP WAS THE FIRST TIME I TASTED THE THING CALLED GUILT
BUT IF THAT GUILT IS REAL, RATHER THEN REGRET WHAT I'VE DONE. THERE ARE STILL THINGS AHEAD THAT I HAVE TO DO.
RESTORE ZERO
AT LEAST THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT THIS WORLD IS SUSPICIOUS
I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING I FORGOT IN MY ROOM.
AND...
THE TRUTH! FRIENDS!!
PUT IT AWAY!
I'LL FIND THEM!!
HUH? GEO WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

IN JULY 2012, THE DRUG 170-1248 NO REGISTRATION NUMBER COMMONLY KNOWN AS "ZERO" WAS ALL CONFISCATED AND DISPOSED OF
CA-KOW
I WAS SAVED
BUT
SHREK
MYSELF!!
AKIRA
COME HERE, AKIRA.

AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE...
THE 'DREAM' ISN'T OVER
RESTORE ZERO

ZERO I / END

an extra



to be continued…

Editors Note As there is no chapter break up provided in zero - 1, I have been breaking up the volume where the plot allows Please don't take what I've cut the releases into as the actual chapters

~Hoowee

'Horumarin' is the Japanese word for Formalin. Formalin is the brand name for formaldehyde.

Technically formaldehyde is a gas, and the liquid solution (water and formaldehyde) is called Formalin.

They are often used interchangeably

I have opted to use the more familiar formaldehyde.

-TORAKHAN